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MCRN at the MEA-MFT Educators' Conference

MCRN will present three sectionals at the upcoming MEA-MFT Educators' Conference in Belgrade on October 18th & 19th. Shaunda Hildebrand, MCRN Director, and Annette Miller, Deputy Bureau Chief of the Montana Research & Analysis Bureau, will conduct the following presentations:

"MCIS Junior"

Both days at 8 am

"So Much Career Information"

Thursday at 2 pm and Friday at 10 am

"Math & Science: What's the Relevance?"

Thursday at 4 pm and Friday at noon.

The **MCIS Junior** presentation will provide a tour of the MCIS Junior internet-based career information system for middle school students. Come see how MCIS Junior provides fun career development activities as well as great career information and planning tools for your middle school students.

So Much Career Information will highlight how MCRN's mission to provide career information and resources to all Montanans can help you with your career development resource needs. MCRN has done the research for you and produces resources and information specifically geared to Montana needs to help make your job easier.

Math & Science: What's the Relevance? highlights the importance of math and science while providing tools and resources to show students their relevance. MCRN has created two publications that contain real-world interviews, high school level activities with occupational relevance, and information on study habits, tips, resources, and how to get help. This is not just for the counselor, but for math and science teachers wanting to help students realize how critical math and science are in today's world.

Each session will have valuable, useful information you'll be able to use with your students, not to mention prizes. Come to one, come to all of them, and increase your career awareness and get great information, resources, and gifts. See you at MEA-MFT!



MCIS CONNECTIONS



MCIS CONNECTIONS



MCIS Changes for 2007/2008

As always, MCRN is continually working to improve our products and resources, and the release of the 2007/2008 version of MCIS is a great example of that. This year we have added "Reality Check," reworked "Helpful High School Courses," changed the "Employment and Outlook" section to a table format, added information and resources to the "Apprenticeship" section, changed our national job search link from America's Job Bank (AJB) to JobCentral, and added a table to "Educational Attainment" that shows the percentage of those in the occupation by level of education attained.

Reality Check is an interactive tool that gives students a realistic idea of what their dream lifestyle would cost versus actual wages in selected occupations

and educational attainment. Students select their lifestyle through choices in housing, transportation, entertainment, activities, savings, etc. Once a lifestyle has been chosen students can get a list of occupations that pay enough to support the lifestyle or they can select occupations and/or educational attainment and compare to their lifestyle choice. Students can also enter a salary amount, area of study, and level of education to get a list of possible occupations.

Since the cost of living varies across Montana just as it varies across the country, Montana's Reality Check information is based on data from five areas of the state: Eastern Montana, South Central Montana, Western Montana, North Central Montana, and Southwest Montana.



MCIS Junior : Career Information System for Middle Schoolers

Constant improvement is vitally important to ensure that students get the most timely and accurate information possible. MCIS Junior is no exception. This year we have added Montana wages to the occupations and cluster information, the "Reality Check" feature, and more occupational information. We have also improved the "Helpful High School Courses" section.

MCIS Junior is our middle school version of MCIS, and is available to schools upon request. MCIS Junior

contains an interest survey, occupational information, a student portfolio feature with planning abilities, and "Getting Started" activities to help students learn about themselves, their community, and the world of work. A tour of MCIS Junior will be presented at the MEA-MFT Educators conference in Belgrade, on October 18th and 19th.

If you would like access to MCIS Junior, please contact Shaunda Hildebrand or Donetta Clark at 1-800-541-3904



Student Assistance Foundation Again Funds MCIS Access for Schools!

Thanks to the Student Assistance Foundation (SAF), grants are again available to schools that wish to have a site license for MCIS. Letters with grant agreement forms were mailed to schools in September. If you did not receive a grant agreement and wish to maintain or

get a site license for MCIS, contact Darbie Hess at SAF 1-800-852-2761 or MCRN at 1-800-541-3904.

For site licenses to continue uninterrupted, signed grant agreements are due by October 31st.

Student Assistance Foundation News:

SAF Continues its Support for MCIS, Changes Outreach Strategy

Last year, nearly 32,000 students, parents and educators accessed MCIS through the Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) website, and many people throughout the state participated in MCIS workshops led by SAF employee, Clay Hanson.

As the 2007-08 school year kicks off, SAF is pleased to announce several changes that will allow for the expansion of our outreach efforts and improved access to MCIS.

First, SAF opened two new campus outreach offices this year — one serving Southwest Montana through our office at Montana Tech, and the other serving Northwest Montana through our office at Flathead Valley Community College. Clay Hanson now manages our branch office in Missoula, and we have decided not to fill Clay's position in the Helena office. Community outreach for MCIS will be offered by our branch managers in each community.

Please contact the branch manager in your area for assistance with MCIS:

U of M – Missoula:
Clay Hanson
chanson@safmt.org
(406) 243-5425

Montana Tech – Butte:
Shauna Savage
ssavage@safmt.org
(406) 496-4890

FVCC – Kalispell:
Mary Howard
mhoward@safmt.org
(406) 756-3382

**Miles Community College –
Miles City:**
Currently recruiting
(406) 874-6197

MSU – Bozeman:
Kimberly Cummings
kcummings@safmt.org
(406) 994-5024

MSU – Billings:
Kalie Porter
kporter@safmt.org
(406) 657-1639

Helena:
Rhonda Safford
rsafford@safmt.org
(406) 495-7750

In addition, SAF has developed a new website to help Montana families access more information about going to college. The new site, www.smartaboutcollege.org, launched September 4th, and is the new access site for MCIS. Log in information remains the same.



Real Game Training

November 8-9, 2007

MCRN will offer Real Game Training in Helena, MT, on November 8th and 9th. Vicki Gray, a master-level Real Game trainer from New York, has agreed to train for us. She has extensive training and years of valuable experience that will benefit all participants. We are truly fortunate to get Vicki. This training is made possible by a partnership with the Montana GearUp Program and the Student Assistance Foundation.

The Real Game is an experiential learning system targeted for middle school students (7-8 graders) that helps students start the career development process so they can begin planning for the future.

The training will walk participants through the Real Game process as well as work through several of the activities as a group. After the training participants will have what they need to put the Real Game to work in their classrooms.

The registration fee is \$100 and all participants must have a Real Game Facilitator's Kit to participate in the training. CEU credits will be offered to all participants who complete the training.

For more information or to register please contact Donetta Clark or Shaunda Hildebrand at 1-800-541-3904.

MC CONNECTIONS

NOVEMBER 8-9, 2007



CONNECTIONS



CONNECTIONS



MCIS Optional Components!

You've got free access to the best career information delivery system, but it could be even more valuable. IDEAS assessment, Dependable Strengths, and Civil Service and academic practice tests can be added to your MCIS site for a small fee. The fee is not per student but per site so you can have as many students utilizing the components as you like, making these very economical options. All component activities can be stored in the student's portfolio.

The Civil Service practice tests option is \$200 per site and the Academic Practice Test Package I (PSAT, GED, CLEP, SAT, ACT, and ASVAB) or the Academic Practice Test Package II (SAT subject matter, AP, and TOEFL tests) will cost \$225 per site for up to 200 students, \$275 per site for 201 - 500 students and \$325 for 501+ student sites. These optional components will provide your students with the opportunity to practice for crucial tests while learning valuable knowledge and skills to help them improve their test performance. Studies show that taking practice tests can help students raise their test scores.

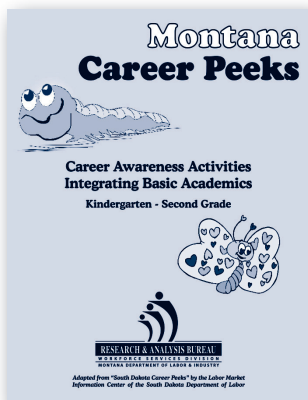
Dependable Strengths is a powerful, time-tested tool for identifying your skills and strengths. The tool was developed by Bernard Haldane, PhD. Dependable Strengths follows a six step process:

- Identifying many past good experiences;
- Selecting the top four good experiences;
- Completing the Strengths Chart;
- Identifying the Top Strengths;
- Determining a Career Pathway using the Top Strengths; and
- Selecting occupations from that Career Pathway.

The internet version of Dependable Strengths is engaging and easy to use and has a data storage component that allows users to return to their work for further exploration or to make changes. This is one more tool to help students and job seekers assess their skills and abilities as they relate to their career choices and options. The Dependable Strengths option in MCIS is available for \$200 per site.

To add any of these optional components to your MCIS site please contact Shaunda Hildebrand or Donetta Clark at 1-800-541-3904.

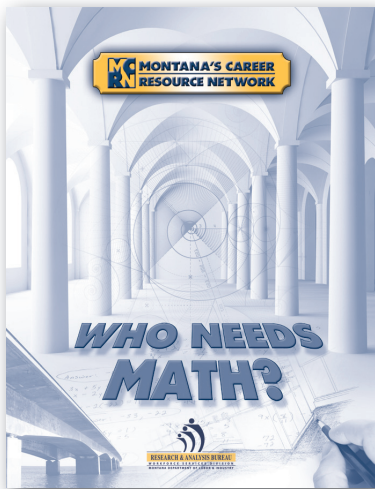
Montana Career Peeks: MCRN's Latest Career Resource!



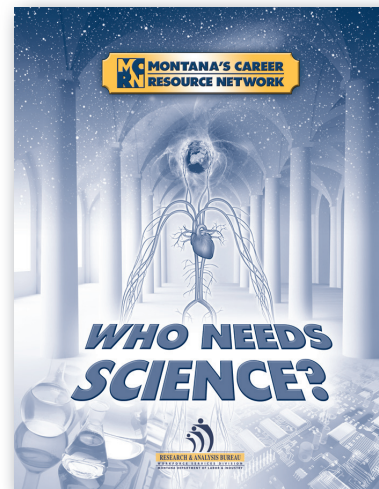
MCRN would like to introduce you to our latest career resource designed for K-2nd grade students. Montana Career Peeks introduces occupations to students with fun activities that integrate career awareness with basic academics. Studies show that early career awareness improves active participation and educational attainment.

Montana Career Peeks is available, free of charge, on our website (<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org>) in the Career Resource Network publications section or you can request a master copy by calling 1-800-541-3904.

Who Needs Math?/Who Needs Science?



What math or science teacher hasn't heard the question: "When are we ever going to use this stuff in the real world?" Now there are publications that provide an answer. MCRN's Who Needs Math? and Who Needs Science? connects what students learn in school to the world of work with a collection of interviews with professionals in a wide variety of occupations that utilize math and science.



Originally published as Who Needs Math and Science?, the publication has been divided to target each subject specifically, helping teachers incorporate it more easily into their busy curriculae. It has also been revised and updated to include activities that reinforce the school/work connection and challenge students to use math and science to solve real world problems.

Geared for grades eight through twelve, MCRN's Who Needs Math? and Who Needs Science? publications can help fulfill Montana standards for career and vocational/technical education, which require "activities intended to increase student awareness of career options, requirements, and educational opportunities."

Jacob & Emily Skip School Workbooks Available

Once again, MCRN will provide *Jacob & Emily Skip School* workbooks free of charge to those who request them on a first-come, first-serve basis. In the first week of September, MCRN mailed postcards to elementary schools across the state with information on ordering the workbooks.

Jacob & Emily Skip School: A Career Clusters Workbook is a career awareness workbook for 5-6 graders, which centers on a set of twins who skip school to meet people from occupations from each of the U.S. Department of Education's 16 Career Clusters.

The workbook combines a great story-line with fun educational activities intended to raise students' career awareness.

The Teacher's Guide contains cross-walks to the Montana standards as well as additional resources and activities. The Teacher's Guide can be found on our website (<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org>) in the Career Resource Network publications section.

To request Jacob & Emily workbooks, complete and send in the postcard or contact Donetta Clark at 1-800-541-3904.

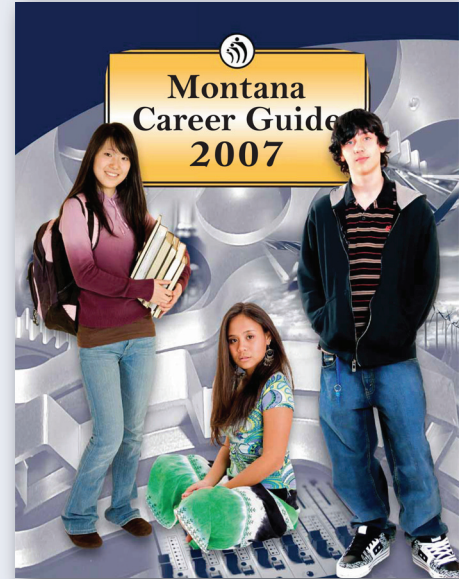
MCRN – Did You Know?

Resources that you may be interested in checking out on our website:

- MCIS Quick Reference Guide
- Interview Tip sheet
- Montana Career Peeks
- Resume Pocket Guide – Coming Soon!
- Mychildsfuture.org website link
- The Importance of Starting Early – Career awareness article by ACRNA
- Over 500 Learning Activities

2007 Montana Career Guide

The 2007 Montana Career Guide will be mailed to all high schools to be distributed to all Montana sophomores the first week of October. The Career Guide is an essential resource for anyone needing career information, including resume writing, searching and interviewing for jobs, post-secondary education and training, and occupational information such as wages, education requirements, and annual openings. This year's Career Guide has been reorganized to fit the Montana Career Cluster Model. For more information or to request the 2007 Montana Career Guide, please contact Donetta Clark at 1-800-541-3904.



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